(b) if so, the action taken to check such subversive activities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Vessels from Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries do visit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and sometimes manage to take sea cucumber and other marine products. Occasional cutting of trees is also resorted to by them for meeting their camping requirement and for repairing/construction of boats.

(b) The action taken to prevant such subversive activities include:

1. Regular patrolling by Forest Department of the Union Territory.
2. Patrolling by Coast Guards and Indian Navy in deep sea.
3. Camps by Police in far flung Islands.
4. Technical and financial assistance to Andaman and Nicobar administration by Government for protection of wildlife in Protected Areas.

Setting up of Utkal Alumina Project in Orissa

384. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area proposed for setting up of the Utkal Alumina Project in Kashipur Block of Rayagada district in Orissa, has wildlife of the nature of Bears, and other mammals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert opinion from the leading wildlife conservation organisations has been obtained on the likely impact of this project on tie wildlife, both flora and fauna; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Utkal Alumina Project in Kashipur Block of Rayagada district in Orissa was approved by Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 19-4-1999. As per the information available with Government, the only mammals reported from the project area are porcupine, hare, fruit bat, mongoose and rat.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The area proposed for diversion is neither included in any National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary nor does it form part of any significant wildlife habitat.

Proposals under Forests Act, 1980 from State Government of Uttaranchal

385. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of proposals for granting approval under Forests Act, 1980 received from the State Government of Uttaranchal during the last two years;

(b) whether all the said proposals have been granted approval; and

(c) if not, reasons for not granting approval and by when all these schemes would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Out of total 264 proposals received from Government of Uttaranchal for approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during last two years (2002 and upto November, 2003), 179 proposals have been approved by Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of balance 85 proposals, 15 proposals have been rejected on merit and 70 proposals have been closed/returned to the State Government due to incomplete information.

Phasing out of use of CFCs

386. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is committed to phasing out of use of Chlorofiuorocarbons (CFCs) which release ozone depleting Greenhouse Gases (GHGs);

(b) whether it is also a fact that India will receive US $ 52 million in aid to completely phase out the production and consumption of toxic chemical Carbon Tetrachloride; and

(c) if so, the details of funding?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.